

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 708

2 INTRODUCED BY C. HARRIS

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF A
5 PERMIT THAT COULD REASONABLY CAUSE PERMANENT AND SUBSTANTIAL DEGRADATION OF THE
6 GALLATIN RIVER; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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8 WHEREAS, the Gallatin River was named by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark for United States
9 Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin, who arranged for the financing of the Louisiana Purchase; and

10 WHEREAS, the Gallatin River significantly contributes to strong farm and ranch, recreation, movie, real
11 estate, tourism, and other industries in the region, contributing \$7.5 million in recreation revenue in 1995 alone;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the Gallatin River is revered by fly-fishing anglers for its blue ribbon trout fishery and by
14 white water enthusiasts challenged by its class four waters; and

15 WHEREAS, the Gallatin River remains one of Montana's few high quality headwaters streams and
16 needs special protection to maintain the quality of its water; and

17 WHEREAS, many local businesses, ranches, and landowners realize the need to protect the Gallatin
18 River for their personal well-being and the health of their economic livelihoods; and

19 WHEREAS, the Gallatin County Commissioners and the City of Bozeman support the process to list the
20 Gallatin River as an outstanding resource water.

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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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24 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Moratorium on issuance of permit.** The department may not issue a
25 permit that could reasonably cause permanent, substantial degradation of the Gallatin River between the
26 Yellowstone national park boundary and the Gallatin River's intersection with Spanish Creek.

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28 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
29 integral part of Title 75, chapter 5, and the provisions of Title 75, chapter 5, apply to [section 1].

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1 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Termination.** [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the
4 department of environmental quality certifies to the governor that an environmental impact statement has been
5 completed in response to the petition filed in March 2002 concerning the water quality of the Gallatin River. The
6 director shall notify the code commissioner of the date that certification was made to the governor.

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